



MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting of February 23, 2016

Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners:

Kenita Barrow, Chair
Barbara Fredericks
Claudia Herbert
Steve Rosen

Staff Member:

Robert W. Cobb, Chief Counsel
Erin Chu, Program Manager

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Item 2. The minutes from the January 12, 2016, meeting were approved as presented.

Item 3. Mr. Cobb discussed a question he had received from the Office of Management and Budget about raising of lobbying fees. He discussed the history of the issue, as it had been discussed by the Commission in 2012. In addition, he related how lobbying fee revenue had doubled with the advent of the new lobbying registration system, the institution of requirement that a fee be submitted for all named lobbyists on a registration, and greater attention to compliance with filing requirements. The sense of the Commission was to maintain the current fee structure and not advocate for change.

Item 4. Mr. Cobb briefly discussed the possibility of the development of new executive and Commission regulations concerning ethics. With respect to revised outside employment regulations, the Commission indicated that it would like the Police Chief to be authorized to approve outside employment requests of police officers without further review by the Commission. With respect to the authority of the Commission to issue

regulations concerning ranges of values for disclosure of elected officials, the Commission indicated it was not inclined to initiate the regulatory process for such regulations in the absence of a request. Otherwise, the Commission thought pursuing Commission regulations was a good idea and directed Cobb to pursue the development of appropriate regulations.

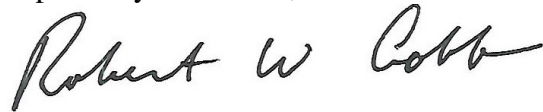
Item 5. The Commission discussed briefly the annual report. Commissioners Fredericks and Barrow had comments that would be conveyed to Mr. Cobb.

Item 6. The Commission discussed proposed testimony on the State Senate Bill 395 prepared by Mr. Cobb. The Commission approved of the draft testimony, with Commissioner Fredericks recommending that the testimony make clear that the Commission supports the testimony.

Item 7. The Commission elected Steve Rosen to be the Chair and Kenita Barrow to be the Vice Chair.

Item 8. The next meeting will be March 8.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert W. Cobb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert W. Cobb
Chief Counsel